

Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the following Abstract on page 28:

PROCESS FOR PREPARING CHIRAL AROMATIC  $\alpha$ -HYDROXY  
KETONES USING 2-HYDROXY-3-OXOACID SYNTHASE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A biotransformation process for preparing chiral aromatic-hydroxy ketones in high yields is described, using 2-hydroxy-3-oxoacid synthase, such as AHAS or TSAS. Optionally substituted arylaldehydes and -oxoacids react in this process to provide pure enantiomers, useful as synthons in the production of various drugs, an example being (*R*)-phenylacetyl carbinol.